

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-115 were originally filed. Claims 9 and 28-104 are canceled. Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 12, 15, 18, 22, 25, 27, 105, and 107 are amended as follows: The claims have been amended to delete the phrase "immunogenic fragment thereof." This amendment introduces no new matter.

II. Claim Rejections

A. 35 U.S.C. § 112 First Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 1-27 and 105-115 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 first paragraph for allegedly lacking enablement. Specifically, the Examiner states that although the specification is enabling for whole antigens or fusion proteins, it is not enabled for "immunogenic fragments thereof." Applicants respectfully traverse. However, the rejection is moot as the claims have been amended to delete this phrase. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 09/688,672
Reply to Office Action of February 20, 2004

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Annette S. Parent". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "A" and "P".

Annette S. Parent
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